

communities, because so many are volunteering for local causes. Nearly 150,000 of them have joined AmeriCorps over the past 8 years, dedicating at least a year of their lives to public service.

According to one recent study, this youthful spirit of community can be translated into a lifetime of financial support for worthy causes but only if we engage people early and teach them the importance of philanthropy. With the help and guidance of several major philanthropic organizations, we developed a national blueprint to do just that, the Youth Giving Project.

Building on the success of a program in Michigan, this grassroots initiative will train young people to identify charitable needs in their own communities, teach them how to raise and distribute money to address those needs, and build leadership skills along the way. It will be coordinated by a nonprofit coalition of experts on youth programs that can provide local groups with training materials, access to a comprehensive web site, and expert advice.

This is just a small investment with a potentially great dividend. The baby boom generation stands poised to inherit \$12 trillion from the World War II generation. And it's likely their children will inherit even more. With that in mind, we need to help younger people recognize their own capacity to do good and help them discover the rewards of generosity.

In this time of prosperity and season of sharing, let's remember: When we give what we can and give it with joy, we don't just renew the American tradition of giving, we also renew ourselves.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:15 a.m. on November 24 in the Laurel Conference Room at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters November 27, 2000

Cabinet Accomplishments/Presidential Transition

The President. Let me say, first of all, I called this Cabinet meeting in part just to thank publicly the members of this Cabinet for 8 extraordinary years of service. A number of them have been with me the whole way. And for all of them, I am very grateful.

The policies we have worked on together have been very good for America. They have sparked the longest economic expansion in history. Our welfare rolls were cut in half. We have crime at a 28-year low. And more land has been protected in the lower 48 States than at any time since Theodore Roosevelt's administration almost a century ago. This is a record that all of them can be proud of, and only a small fraction of the record that they established.

Our country is now moving forward. And in the final weeks of this administration, we are committed to maintaining a steady course. That means providing a smooth transition to the next President, whether it is Vice President Gore or Governor Bush. As you know, an appropriate

legal process is now underway. That process will take a few more days to play itself out. Our job is to do what we've done for 8 years now, to focus on the business at hand.

That is why I'm signing today an Executive order creating a transition coordinating council. The council will provide the President-elect's team with coordinated services, especially regarding personnel matters. This action and other efforts by the Cabinet will well ensure that we are as prepared as we can possibly be for an orderly transition to the new administration. Meanwhile, we will be doing what we can to get ready when Congress comes back to town in a few days.

Thank you very much.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, do you think Governor Bush was presumptuous in declaring victory last night?

The President. Well, I don't think I should comment on what he or the Vice President says. There is an election challenge. Both of them

have litigation involved. At least one case involves the U.S. Supreme Court, and the election challenge will play itself out.

I will say what I have said from the first day. In all this interplay, it is easy to lose what is really important, which is the integrity of the voter—every single vote. On election day, every person who voted had a vote that counted just as much as mine. So they have to sort that out in Florida—whose vote should be counted; can every vote be counted; if every vote can't be counted, is there a good reason why you're not counting that vote?

And I think those are the things that will be resolved in this election challenge, and I think we just have to let—both sides are very well represented, and they all both have litigation, and we'll just watch it play itself out.

Q. Mr. President, so you don't accept Florida's certification of George Bush as the winner?

The President. It's not up for me to accept or reject. There is a legal process here. Both of them have filed lawsuits, and the Supreme Court of Florida, when they issued their opinion a couple of days ago, or a few days ago, actually anticipated a challenge. And if you read the opinion, they explicitly acknowledged that it was almost a certainty. So let's just watch this happen. It will be over soon, and we will be ready for the transition.

Presidential Transition

Q. Mr. President, to what extent were you, or was anyone in the White House staff, involved in the decision by the General Services Administration to withhold transition funding from the Bush/Cheney team?

The President. I was not involved in it at all, and as far as I know, no one else here was. But there is a procedure that—we actually went back and reviewed the congressional deliberations on this legislation. And I think the General Services Administration believes that it cannot offer transition assistance to both of them, which is what I would otherwise be inclined to do.

I think they're doing what they think the law requires. But I personally—I can't answer for anyone else in the White House, but I was personally not involved in it. I think they're trying to do what they think the law requires while this election challenge plays itself out. It won't be long now.

Vice President Gore

Q. Have you spoken to the Vice President at all, or—

The President. I talked to him on Thanksgiving, called him and wished him and his family a happy Thanksgiving.

Q. But he hasn't called you for advice or anything?

The President. No.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:16 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush and Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. The Executive order on the Presidential transition is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks in a Meeting With Metropolitan Law Enforcement Leaders November 28, 2000

Well, first of all, you guys look good on the steps here. [*Laughter*] Maybe you should just stay all day. It would be great.

I want to thank you for all the help you've given us these last 8 years, in all my many movements and oftentimes in very crowded times of the day and difficult circumstances. And I'm very, very grateful to all of you, and

before I left, I just wanted to have a chance to get everybody together and say thank you.

I've had a wonderful time these last 8 years. And I was able to do my job in no small measure because of what you did, and I hope you'll always be glad that you did it.